

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 have amended to more clearly state the present invention and claim 14 has been added. Upon entry of this response, claims 1-9 and 13 and 14 will be under examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3, 7-9 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly not novel over Goto *et al* (Blood, Vol. 84, No 6 Sept. 1994). Applicants have amended the claims to overcome this rejection. In light of the present claim amendments, applicants believe that Goto no longer teaches all of the elements of the present claims. Therefore, applicants request the withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2, 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Goto, in view of Kang (US Patent No. 6,656,448) or view of Young (US Patent No. 6,335,183). Applicants urge that neither Kang nor Young teach or suggest all of the recitations of the independent claims and therefore neither combination of references render the present invention obvious.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and arguments. It is respectfully urged that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date August 30, 2004

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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No.19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.
